



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler  
City of Portland

**Date:** November 18, 2018

To: Albina Rail Relocation Project  
Moe Badreddine

From: Mayor Ted Wheeler, City of Portland

Subject: Albina Rail Relocation Project

I am writing to express my support for the vision of the Albina Rail Relocation project.

As Mayor, I know we must champion visionary ideas as Portland transforms into a global city. In my first State of the City address, I expressed support for the vision for burying the I-5 interstate freeway as it passes through Portland's Central Eastside Industrial District. I know that this vision already has support in the community, and I know that it is a long-term vision. But Portland must plan for the future. Portlanders didn't foresee the vision of a light rail/streetcar transit system. Portlanders didn't foresee current efforts for ferry service, or higher density downtown, or the promise of the Gateway District ten or twenty years ago. Yet Portlanders grew those visions through community leaders.

Throughout the country, cities are embracing redevelopment of transportation assets to maximize how we move goods and people intermodally but also how we integrate these facilities into the fabric of our cities and provide industry with commercial and industrial space adjacent to these key transportation assets.

I also understand that the Metro Regional government, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Port of Portland, and the Federal Rail Administration are key stakeholders and decision makers supporting Union Pacific. Portland only wishes to express support for this vision and support for making certain that Portlanders have economic opportunities through economic development.

I appreciate the willingness to come together and support this future opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland